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Macroeconomic policy questions: trade and development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95 (a) (see A/56/558, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 33rd, 36th, 37th and 40th meetings, on 28 November and on 4, 7 and 12 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.33, 36, 37 and 40).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.35, A/C.2/56/L.38 and A/C.2/56/L.49

2. At the 33rd meeting, on 28 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Trade and development" (A/C 2/56/L.35), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Reaffirming* its resolution 55/182 of 20 December 2000, entitled 'International trade and development',
>
> "*Taking into account* the ongoing preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, which will consider, inter alia, macroeconomic policy questions relating to financing for development,

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"*Considering* the recently concluded Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization, held in Doha, Qatar, from 9 to 13 November 2001,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on international trade and development, the report of the Secretary-General on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries, the progress report of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries, and the report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-eighth session;

"2. *Stresses* the importance of the annual consideration of the sub-item on international trade and development, under the agenda item entitled 'Macroeconomic policy questions';

"3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled 'Macroeconomic policy questions', the sub-item 'International trade and development';

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution and developments in the multilateral trading system."

3. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International trade and development (A/C.2/56/L.38), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* its resolutions 50/95 of 20 December 1995, 51/167 of 16 December 1996, 52/182 of 18 December 1997, 53/170 of 15 December 1998, 54/198 of 22 December 1999 and 55/182 of 20 December 2000, as well as relevant international agreements concerning trade, economic growth and development,

"*Taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-eighth session, the report of the Secretary-General on international trade and development and on the developments in the multilateral trading system, the report of the Secretary-General on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries and the report of the Secretary-General on measures taken to initiate the preparatory process for the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

"1. *Welcomes* the decision by the Trade and Development Board to conduct the mid-term review of the outcome of the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Bangkok from 29 April to 3 May 2002, and, in this regard, expresses deep appreciation to the Government of Thailand for offering to host the meeting;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution and developments in the multilateral trading system."

4. At the 37th meeting, on 7 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Felix Mbayu (Cameroon), introduced a draft resolution entitled "International trade and development" (A/C.2/56/L.49), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.35 and A/C.2/56/L.38.

5. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the Secretary read out a statement regarding the conference-servicing implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.49 (see A/C.2/56/SR.37).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.49 (see para. 18, draft resolution I).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.49, draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.35 and A/C.2/56/L.38 were withdrawn by their sponsors.

B. Draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.36

8. At the 33rd meeting, on 28 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries" (A/C.2/56/L.36).

9. At the 36th meeting, on 4 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Felix Mbayu (Cameroon), informed the Committee of the outcome of the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.36.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.36 by a recorded vote of 74 to 1, with 47 abstentions (see para. 18, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:[1]

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, United

[1] The delegations of Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cape Verde, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Dominican Republic, Kuwait, Myanmar, Pakistan, Qatar, Uganda and Viet Nam subsequently indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour. The representative of Gabon stated that he had intended to vote in favour.

Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of Belgium, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union (see A/C.2/56/SR.36).

C. Draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.37 and A/C.2/56/L.66

12. At the 33rd meeting, on 28 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries" (A/C.2/56/L.37), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the Millennium Declaration, which recognizes the special needs and problems of landlocked developing countries and urges both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems,

"*Recalling also* the provisions of its resolutions 44/214 of 22 December 1989, 46/212 of 20 December 1991, 48/169 of 21 December 1993, 50/97 of 20 December 1995, 52/183 of 18 December 1997 and 54/199 of 22 December 1999 and the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community, as well as the relevant parts of the Agenda for Development,

"*Recognizing* that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness and isolation from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks impose serious constraints on the overall socio-economic development efforts of the landlocked developing countries,

"*Recognizing also* that sixteen of the landlocked developing countries are also classified by the United Nations as least developed countries and that their geographical situation is an added constraint on their overall ability to cope with the challenges of development,

"*Recognizing further* that most transit countries are themselves developing countries facing serious economic problems, including the lack of adequate infrastructure in the transport sector,

"*Noting* the importance of continuing to strengthen the existing international support measures with a view to addressing further the problems of landlocked developing countries,

"*Emphasizing* the importance of further strengthening effective and close cooperation and collaboration between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours, at regional, subregional and bilateral levels, inter alia, through cooperative arrangements in developing efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries, and noting the important role of the activities of the regional commissions in this regard,

"*Welcoming* the holding of the fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions, in New York from 30 July to 3 August 2001,

"*Expressing its appreciation* to donor countries for participating in the fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts and for the generous contribution that facilitated the participation of experts from landlocked and transit developing countries,

"*Welcoming* the Vientiane Plan of Action on measures designed to improve transit transport systems of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, adopted at the first specific consultative meeting on transit transport systems of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, held in Vientiane on 14 and 15 December 2000 under the aegis of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

"1. *Welcomes* the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries;

"2. *Endorses* the agreed conclusions and recommendations for future action adopted by the fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions;

"3. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit States by all means of transport, in accordance with international law;

"4. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries, including landlocked developing countries, in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

"5. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours to implement measures to strengthen further their cooperative and collaborative efforts to deal with transit transport issues, including bilateral

and, as appropriate, subregional cooperation, inter alia, by improving the physical infrastructure and non-physical aspects of transit transport systems, strengthening and concluding, where appropriate, bilateral and subregional agreements to govern transit transport operations, developing joint ventures in the area of transit transport and strengthening institutions and human resources dealing with transit transport, and, in this respect, notes that South-South cooperation also plays an important role in this field;

"6. *Appeals once again* to all States, international organizations and financial institutions to implement, as a matter of urgency and priority, the specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries agreed upon in the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the outcomes of recent major United Nations conferences relevant to landlocked developing countries and the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community and to take fully into account the agreed conclusions and recommendations of the fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions;

"7. *Invites* donor countries, the United Nations Development Programme and multilateral financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate financial and technical assistance in the form of grants or concessional loans for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications, and to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes, and, in this regard, also to consider, inter alia, improving the availability and optimal use of the different transport modes and intermodal efficiency along transport corridors;

"8. *Emphasizes* that assistance for the improvement of transit transport facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategies of the landlocked and transit developing countries and that donor countries should consequently take into account the requirements for the long-term restructuring of the economies of the landlocked developing countries;

"9. *Notes* the important role that the simplification, harmonization and standardization of transit procedures and documentation as well as the application of information technologies have played in enhancing the efficiency of transit systems, and calls upon the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in close cooperation with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to continue to assist landlocked and transit developing countries in these areas, in accordance with their mandates;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene in 2003 an international ministerial meeting of landlocked and transit developing countries and donor countries and representatives of international financial and development institutions on transit transport cooperation to review the current situation of transit transport systems, including the implementation of the 1995 Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation, and to formulate, inter

alia, appropriate policy measures and action-oriented programmes aimed at developing efficient transit transport systems, which would be held for two days and would be preceded by a three-day meeting of senior officials to finalize the substantive preparation;

"11. *Requests* the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in particular the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries, in cooperation with donor countries and international development and financial institutions, in particular the World Bank, regional development banks, commissions and other organizations, to provide substantive and organizational support for the meeting referred to in paragraph 10 above; in this context, the necessary preparations should be undertaken at the subregional and regional levels, as appropriate, with the involvement of all major stakeholders, including the private sector;

"12. *Welcomes* the generous offer made by the Government of Kazakhstan to host the meeting;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene in 2003, within existing resources for the biennium 2003-2004, another meeting of governmental experts from landlocked and transit developing countries and representatives of donor countries and financial and development institutions, including relevant regional and subregional economic organizations and commissions, to serve as a preparatory committee for the international ministerial meeting referred to in paragraph 10 above in order to provide it with substantive preparation;

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to seek voluntary contributions to facilitate the preparation for the international ministerial meeting, including the participation of representatives of landlocked and transit developing countries at the meeting referred to in paragraphs 10 and 11 above;

"15. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to formulating international policies and measures dealing with the special problems of landlocked developing countries, inter alia, through technical cooperation programmes, and urges the Conference, inter alia, to keep under constant review the evolution of transit transport infrastructure facilities, institutions and services, monitor the implementation of agreed measures, inter alia, by means of case study as necessary, promote regional and subregional cooperation, build up consensus on cooperative arrangements, mobilize international support measures, collaborate in all relevant initiatives, including those of the private sector and non-governmental organizations, and serve as a focal point for cross-regional issues of landlocked developing countries;

"16. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to take appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the activities called for in the present resolution, and to provide the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries of the Conference with adequate resources so as to

allow it to implement effectively its mandate to continue to support landlocked developing countries, including the provision of the effective preparations for the meeting referred to in paragraph 10;

"17. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution and submit it to the Trade and Development Board and to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session."

13. At the 40th meeting, on 12 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Felix Mbayu (Cameroon), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries" (A/C.2/56/L.66), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.37.

14. At the same meeting, the representative of Japan orally corrected the draft resolution (see A/C.2/56/SR.40).

15. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary read out a statement on the conference-servicing implications of the draft resolution (see A/C.2/56/SR.40).

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.66, as orally corrected (see para. 18, draft resolution III).

17. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.66, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.37 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

18. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 55/182 of 20 December 2000 on international trade and development,

Taking into account the ongoing preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held at Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, which will consider, inter alia, trade in the context of financing for development,

Noting the outcome of the recently concluded Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha from 9 to 13 November 2001,[2]

[2] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

Welcoming the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held at Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,[3] particularly with regard to trade and development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on international trade and development,[4] the report of the Secretary-General on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries,[5] the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries,[6] the report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-eighth session[7] and the report of the Secretary-General on measures taken to initiate the preparatory process for the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[8]

1. *Welcomes* the decision by the Trade and Development Board to conduct the mid-term review of the outcome of the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at Bangkok from 29 April to 3 May 2002, and, in this regard, expresses deep appreciation to the Government of Thailand for offering to host the meeting;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the sub-item on international trade and development, under the agenda item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions";

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "International trade and development";

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution and developments in the multilateral trading system.

Draft resolution II
Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[9] which states, inter alia, that no State may use or encourage the

[3] See A/CONF.191/11 and 12.
[4] A/56/376.
[5] A/56/473.
[6] See A/56/427.
[7] A/56/15 (Part III). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 15*.
[8] A/56/435.
[9] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Bearing in mind the general principles governing the international trading system and trade policies for development contained in relevant resolutions, rules and provisions of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization,

Recalling its resolutions 44/215 of 22 December 1989, 46/210 of 20 December 1991, 48/168 of 21 December 1993, 50/96 of 20 December 1995, 52/181 of 18 December 1997 and 54/200 of 22 December 1999,

Gravely concerned that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures adversely affects the economy and development efforts of developing countries in particular and has a general negative impact on international economic cooperation and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[10]

2. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations or are inconsistent with the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the imposition of measures of this nature and to study the impact of such measures on the affected countries, including the impact on trade and development;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution III
Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of its resolutions 44/214 of 22 December 1989, 46/212 of 20 December 1991, 48/169 of 21 December 1993, 50/97 of 20 December 1995, 52/183 of 18 December 1997 and 54/199 of 22 December 1999 and the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community,[11] as well as the relevant parts of the Agenda for Development,[12]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[13] in which heads of State and Government recognized the special needs and problems of the

[10] A/56/473.
[11] TD/B/42(1)11-TD/B/LDC/AC.1/7, annex I.
[12] Resolution 51/240, annex.
[13] See resolution 55/2.

landlocked developing countries and urged both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems, and resolved to create an environment — at the national and global levels alike — that is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness and isolation from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks impose serious constraints on the overall socio-economic development efforts of the landlocked developing countries,

Recognizing also that sixteen of the landlocked developing countries are also classified by the United Nations as least developed countries and that their geographical situation is an added constraint on their overall ability to cope with the challenges of development,

Recognizing further that most transit countries are themselves developing countries facing serious economic problems, including the lack of adequate infrastructure in the transport sector,

Noting the importance of continuing to strengthen the existing international support measures with a view to addressing further the problems of landlocked developing countries,

Emphasizing the importance of further strengthening effective and close cooperation and collaboration between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours, at regional, subregional and bilateral levels, inter alia, through cooperative arrangements in developing efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries, and noting the important role of the activities of the regional commissions in this regard,

Welcoming the holding in New York from 30 July to 3 August 2001 of the fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions,

Expressing its appreciation to donor countries for participating in the fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts and for the generous contribution that facilitated the participation of experts from landlocked and transit developing countries,

Taking note of the Vientiane Plan of Action on measures designed to improve the transit transport systems of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, adopted at the first specific consultative meeting on transit transport systems of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, held at Vientiane on 14 and 15 December 2000 under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Noting the outcome of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha from 9 to 13 November 2001,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and

Development on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries;[14]

2. *Welcomes* the agreed conclusion and recommendations for future action adopted by the fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions;[15]

3. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, as set forth in article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;[16]

4. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries, including landlocked developing countries, in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

5. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours to implement measures to strengthen further their cooperative and collaborative efforts to deal with transit transport issues, including bilateral and, as appropriate, subregional cooperation, inter alia, by improving the physical infrastructure and non-physical aspects of transit transport systems, strengthening and concluding, where appropriate, bilateral and subregional agreements to govern transit transport operations, developing joint ventures in the area of transit transport and strengthening institutions and human resources dealing with transit transport, and, in this respect, notes that South-South cooperation also plays an important role in this field;

6. *Appeals once again* to all States, international organizations and financial institutions to implement, as a matter of urgency and priority, the specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries agreed upon in the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the outcomes of recent major United Nations conferences relevant to landlocked developing countries and the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community[11] and to take fully into account the agreed conclusion and recommendations of the fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the financial and technical assistance made available by some donors to landlocked and transit developing countries in the form of grants or concessional loans for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications;

8. *Invites* donor countries, the United Nations Development Programme and multilateral financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit

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[14] A/56/427.

[15] Ibid., sect. II.

[16] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

developing countries with appropriate financial and technical assistance in the form of grants or concessional loans for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications, and to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes, and, in this regard, also to consider, inter alia, improving the availability and optimal use of the different transport modes and intermodal efficiency along transport corridors;

9. *Emphasizes* that assistance for the improvement of transit transport facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategies of the landlocked and transit developing countries and that donor countries should consequently take into account the requirements for the long-term restructuring of the economies of the landlocked developing countries;

10. *Notes* the important role that the simplification, harmonization and standardization of transit procedures and documentation as well as the application of information technologies have played in enhancing the efficiency of transit systems, and calls upon the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in close cooperation with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to continue to assist landlocked and transit developing countries in these areas, in accordance with their mandates;

11. *Invites* those countries that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to international agreements and conventions related to transit trade and transport, and invites landlocked and transit countries to consider concluding bilateral or subregional intergovernmental agreements regarding various aspects of transit transport;

12. *Invites* the international community to continue to provide technical and financial support to landlocked and transit developing countries to assist with effective implementation of their cooperation agreements and arrangements on transit transport, taking into account that many landlocked and transit developing countries have concluded bilateral and regional arrangements and are making efforts to implement them;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene in 2003 an International Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, within the existing resources of the budget for the biennium 2002-2003 and with voluntary contributions, to review the current situation of transit transport systems, including the implementation of the 1995 Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation, and to formulate, inter alia, appropriate policy measures and action-oriented programmes aimed at developing efficient transit transport systems, which would be held for two days and would be preceded by a three-day meeting of senior officials to finalize the substantive preparations;

14. *Invites* Member States, members of the specialized agencies and United Nations observers, including, inter alia, landlocked and transit developing countries and donor countries, and international financial and development institutions, including relevant regional and subregional economic organizations and commissions, to participate in the International Ministerial Meeting and its preparatory process;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in close cooperation with and with the full involvement of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as appropriate, to provide substantive and organizational support, within the existing resources of the budget for the biennium 2002-2003 and with voluntary contributions, for the International Ministerial Meeting, and requests that, in this context, the necessary preparations be undertaken at the subregional and regional levels, as appropriate, with the involvement of all major stakeholders, including the private sector;

16. *Decides* to consider the precise timing and venue of the International Ministerial Meeting at its fifty-seventh session, taking into consideration the generous offer made by the Government of Kazakhstan to host the meeting;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene in 2003, prior to the International Ministerial Meeting and within the existing resources for the biennium 2002-2003, the sixth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions, including relevant regional and subregional economic organizations and commissions, and decides that this meeting shall serve as a preparatory committee for the International Ministerial Meeting, in both substantive and organizational aspects;

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in close cooperation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as appropriate, to seek voluntary contributions to facilitate the preparation of the International Ministerial Meeting, including the participation of representatives of landlocked and transit developing countries at the meeting;

19. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to formulating international policies and measures dealing with the special problems of landlocked developing countries, inter alia, through technical cooperation programmes, and urges the Conference, inter alia, to keep under constant review the evolution of transit transport infrastructure facilities, institutions and services, to monitor the implementation of agreed measures, inter alia, by means of a case study as necessary, to promote regional and subregional cooperation, to build consensus on cooperative arrangements, to mobilize international support measures, to collaborate in all relevant initiatives, including those of the private sector and non-governmental organizations, and to serve as a focal point for cross-regional issues of landlocked developing countries;

20. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as appropriate, to take appropriate measures, within the existing resources of the budget for the biennium 2002-2003 and with voluntary contributions, for the effective implementation of the activities called for in the present resolution, and to provide the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries of the Conference with adequate resources so as to allow it to continue to support landlocked developing countries, to the extent of its mandate, including in the effective preparations for the International Ministerial Meeting;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution and submit it to the Trade and Development Board and to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Trade and development", a sub-item entitled "Preparations for the International Ministerial Meeting on Transit Transport Cooperation";

23. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Trade and development", the sub-item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries".